



EV-1010

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By: Manfred Beck

Date: April 24, 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Olaf Müller

Applic. No. : 10/068,721

Conf. No. : 8708

Filed : February 6, 2002

Title : Airbag Device, Method of Mounting and Method of Operating the Airbag Device

P R E L I M I N A R Y A M E N D M E N T

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,
Washington, D. C. 20231

S i r :

Preliminary to examination, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Translated Claims:

Claim 3 (amended). The airbag apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that traction elements, traction ropes (1) or traction bands (16) are mounted, as integral parts of the second mechanism component (M2), on or within a

reinforcing box (4) which supports an orifice (O) for the emergence of the airbag in an instrument panel (V).

Claim 5 (amended). The airbag apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the second mechanism component (M2) of the coupling mechanism (M) and coverings thereof are led through pockets (13), which are integrated in an extruded profile of the airbag housing (G), and, on the opposite side, through putaways of the reinforcing box (4).

Claim 7 (amended). The airbag apparatus according to claim 1, characterized by at least one embodiment illustrated in the figures.

Claim 8 (amended). A mounting method for an airbag apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the mechanism (M) contains a first mechanism component (M1) which is coupled firmly to the airbag module (B), so that the airbag module (B) forms, together with the first mechanism component (M1), a unit ready for installation, and contains a second mechanism component (M2) which is coupled firmly to the covering device (K), and in that, during or after the installation of the airbag apparatus (A) behind a vehicle interior trim panel, the first mechanism component (M1) is

brought into an active position with respect to the second mechanism component (M2).

Claim 10 (amended). An operating method for an airbag apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the first mechanism component (M1) and the second mechanism component (M2) are coupled actively to one another only by means of a release of the airbag apparatus.

Remarks:

In response to the Notice to file Missing Parts of Nonprovisional Application, dated April 8, 2001, applicant submits the signed declaration and power of attorney together with a cover letter. The fee for the late filing of the declaration in the amount of \$130.00 in accordance with Section 1.16 is enclosed.

The application was filed in a language other than English and applicant therefore submits a translation of the specification and a statement that the translation is accurate. The fee for filing the English translation of the specification in the amount of \$130.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed.

The preliminary amendment is submitted in order to eliminate multiple dependent claims in the translation. It is respectfully requested to consider the preliminary amendment prior to calculating the claims fees. Claims 1-10 are on file. Claims 3, 5, 7, 8 and 10 have been amended in order to eliminate multiple dependencies in the claims. A total of 10 claims are in the application. Claim 1 is the only independent claim.

Applicant also encloses a set of drawing sheets having proper margins together with a request for approval.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

An early action on the merits of the application is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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For Applicant

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April 24, 2002

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Appl. No. 10/068,721

Marked-Up Version of the Amended Claims:

In the Claims:

Claim 3 (amended). The airbag apparatus according to claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that traction elements, traction ropes (1) or traction bands (16) are mounted, as integral parts of the second mechanism component (M2), on or within a reinforcing box (4) which supports an orifice (O) for the emergence of the airbag in an instrument panel (V).

Claim 5 (amended). The airbag apparatus according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the second mechanism component (M2) of the coupling mechanism (M) and coverings thereof are led through pockets (13), which are integrated in an extruded profile of the airbag housing (G), and, on the opposite side, through putaways of the reinforcing box (4).

Claim 7 (amended). The airbag apparatus according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized by at least one embodiment illustrated in the figures.

Claim 8 (amended). A mounting method for an airbag apparatus according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the mechanism (M) contains a first mechanism component (M1) which is coupled firmly to the airbag module (B), so that the airbag module (B) forms, together with the first mechanism component (M1), a unit ready for installation, and contains a second mechanism component (M2) which is coupled firmly to the covering device (K), and in that, during or after the installation of the airbag apparatus (A) behind a vehicle interior trim panel,

the first mechanism component (M1) is brought into an active position with respect to the second mechanism component (M2).

Claim 10 (amended). An operating method for an airbag apparatus according to [one of claims] claim 1 [to 7], characterized in that the first mechanism component (M1) and the second mechanism component (M2) are coupled actively to one another only by means of a release of the airbag apparatus.